

## ***Southside Virginia Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program***

***For Academic Year 2008-2009***

***Funds Provided by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission***

**NOTE: This document contains important information regarding the requirements and stipulations for the 2008-2009 Southside Virginia Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program. Please review this information carefully.**

### **Program Goal:**

To provide a stimulus for economic revitalization in communities within Southside Virginia by encouraging native Southside Virginians to complete a degree and then return to and settle in a locality within Southside Virginia, the region that nurtured and developed them during their formative years.

These localities include the following counties and cities: Counties; Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Greenville, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Sussex and Cities; Bedford, Danville, Emporia, and Martinsville.

**ASSISTANCE WITH TUITION AND FEES THROUGH THE SOUTHSIDE TOBACCO FORGIVENESS LOAN PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL 4-YEAR COLLEGE MAJORS.**

**AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION**

### **TO QUALIFY:**

- Have a permanent residence in one of the 24 Southside Virginia localities listed above and be a resident of Virginia for the last 12 months;
- Be a U.S. national, or permanent legal resident of the United States;
- Submit an online application at [www.tic.virginia.gov](http://www.tic.virginia.gov) during the period **March 1, 2008 through December 15, 2009**. Print the required support documentation using the link provided once the application has been successfully submitted.
- Be a degree-seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university.
  - **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program are eligible for the award.**
    - Eligibility requirements for students who are interested in becoming teachers through the Alternative Route to Licensure as set forth by VA DOE must be (1) employed by a VA public or private school system under a provisional license; (2) enrolled in courses to satisfy the DOE requirements; and, (3) working under a licensed teacher who serves as a mentor. (See section 8 VAC 20-21-80 of the

Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel handbook available online at the VA Dept. of Education website.)

- Provide an official transcript as documentation of cumulative GPA. Applicants who last attended high school need to submit a cumulative grade report from the high school showing a cumulative GPA that is based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale.
- Attend an accredited in-state or out-of-state four-year public or private college or university;
- Sign a promissory note agreeing to (1) become employed in a field relative to the degree received in one of the Southside Virginia localities listed above in order to receive loan forgiveness or (2) repay the monies awarded from the Southside Virginia Tobacco Forgiveness Loan as outlined in the promissory note completed by the award recipient.
- Mail support documentation to reach the Southside Tobacco Forgiveness Loan Program by the **close of business (6 PM) on December 31, 2008**

Once the application and its support documentation have been received by the Tobacco Scholarships Administrator, evaluation of the application will be conducted and awards given based on the following:

- **Students must be in good academic standing with the college/university.**
- **Awards will be based on cumulative GPA with the highest cumulative GPA's awarded first.**
- **Renewal students will compete with the entire field of qualified applicants.**

#### **AWARD INFORMATION:**

- **Eligibility for funding is based on an award from the Southside Loan Forgiveness Program serving as a "last dollar" program -- not intended to replace or substitute for any other gifted assistance, except when receipt of this aid would exceed student need or cost of tuition and fees. In other words, all other gifted assistance (PELL Grant, employer-paid tuition assistance, or other grants/loans that do not have to be repaid) must be posted to the student account before this loan is posted. The 0809 Southside Virginia Tobacco Forgiveness Loan:**
  - Pays up to **\$3,000** per year for tuition and fees in an accredited in-state or out-of-state public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled in a minimum of 15 undergraduate credit hours per semester or 9 graduate credit hours per semester
  - Pays up to **\$1,500** per year for tuition and fees at an accredited in-state or out-of-state public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled in less than 15 undergraduate credit hours per semester or 9 graduate credit hours per semester.
  - Accepts one year of documented full time employment in Southside Virginia as qualification for one year of loan forgiveness. Forgiveness or repayment begins 12 months after a degree is received. Students who are

currently employed may not receive tuition assistance and be granted “forgiveness” in the same year.

- Loan terms for the 0809 academic year are 6% simple interest with payment beginning 12 months after program completion or failure to enroll in future credit courses that are relative to the program area. The minimum payment is \$100 per month with a maximum term of 10 years to repay.
- **It is the responsibility of the student/award recipient to make the staff of the Virginia Tobacco Scholarships Office as administration for the Southside Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program updated as to changes in personal information, (i. e. change of address, graduation, withdrawing from classes, no longer enrolled in classes, et. al).**
- Assistance with tuition and academic fees from the Southside Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program may be used to complete **ONLY** one degree or for 4 years, whichever comes first. Lifetime program benefit is restricted to the completion of one degree program.